

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13 as follows:

The fibrous dough is dehydrated/desolvated by applying a compressive force in such a manner as to reduce the inter fiber space by removing at least a portion of the suspension fluid. The compression is unconstrained in directions lateral to the direction of compression. In a preferred embodiment substantially all of the suspension fluid is removed. Unlike unaltered or natural matrices (e.g., dermis, small intestine submucosa, etc.), the thickness, porosity, fiber-density, fiber-orientation, fiber-length, fiber composition and component-ratio (e.g., Collagen to Elastin ratio), as a non-limiting example, can be controlled with the current invention.

Please amend the paragraph on page 16 between lines 19 and 23 as follows:

Any method of compression known by those skilled in the art is conceivable for this invention, including, but not limited to, using hydraulically or pneumatically powered platens or pistons to compress the fibrous matrix material. Other methods include but are not limited to using a screw or an arbor press to compress the material, using centrifugation to extract fluid and compress the fibers, or forcing the material between rollers. Regardless of the method of compression, it never involves any rotation of any piston, platen or mold.